

February 23, 2016

Local Government House Committee:

I oppose HB 5232 that would alter PA 169 of 1970, the Local Historic Districts Act. It denies my right as a property owner to work with my neighbors to maintain and safeguard our local historic districts. The proposed bill makes the process exponentially more difficult to establish a district, protect a threatened resource or appeal a grievance.

PA 169 currently enables local governments to choose to safeguard their historic resources within local historic districts across the state. This legislation declares historic preservation to be a public purpose and as such it has value to the entire community, enhancing diversity, economic development, property values quality of life and sense of place.

The State of Michigan currently has well-functioning, objective enabling legislation in PA 169. The proposed HB 5232 is political and undermines the local unit's mandate to govern for the common good. Michigan's track record on Historic Preservation is rather dismal compared to the rest of the country, why make it worse.

Again, I oppose HB 5232.

Respectfully,

Melinda Hill
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